

PRIORITY

The Examiner has requested that applicant resend certified copies of application no. 0021456.9 and 0101215.2. Applicant has attached certified copies of both documents.

REMARKS

Claims 8 – 33 were pending in the application. Applicant has cancelled claim 32 and added claim 34. Therefore, claims 8 – 31 and 33 – 34 are pending in the application.

35 USC §112 Rejections

The Examiner has rejected claim 32 under 35 USC 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. Applicant has cancelled claim 32 and added new claim 34. New claim 34 is believed to comply with 35 USC 112, second paragraph.

35 USC §103 Rejections

The Examiner has rejected claims 8 – 31 and 33 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Fujita et al. (U.S. Patent 5,774,399) (hereinafter “Fujita”) in view of Inazaki et al. (JP 403083480A) (hereinafter “Inazaki”). Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection.

Applicant respectfully disagrees with the Examiner’s apparent characterization of Fujita’s engagement portion 30 as “a restraint to engage the opening in the device to retain the device at the reading station, the restraint being located at the exterior of the reading station,” as recited in Applicant’s claim 8. Fujita teaches that engagement portion 30 is situated at the *interior* of the housing 17 of the apparatus 12. (Figs. 2 – 7, 9 – 12) Applicant can find no language in Fujita or Inazaki which either separately or in combination, teaches or suggests “a restraint to engage the opening in the device to retain the device at the reading station, **the restraint being located at the exterior of the reading station,**” as recited in Applicant’s claim 8.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that claim 8 is allowable for at least the above stated reason. Claims 9 – 10, 13 – 20, 30 and 31 are dependent upon claim 8, and are likewise believed to distinguish over the cited art for at least the same reason.

Furthermore, claims 11, 24 and 25 recite similar features to claim 8, and are thus believed to patentably distinguish over the cited art for at least similar reasons, along with their respective dependent claims 12, 33 and 26 – 29.

Likewise, Applicant can find no language in Fujita or Inazaki which either separately or in combination, teaches or suggests “a first portion of larger cross-sectional area that defines a **protuberance to project from the wall,**” or “the first portion further comprising **a hole formed in the protuberance,** which hole passes between opposite surfaces of the protuberance and traverses the passage for receiving a restraint to engage an opening in a device when the device is received in the device receiver for retaining the device therein,” as recited in Applicant’s claim 21. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that claim 21 is allowable for at least the above stated reason. Claims 22 and 23 are dependent upon claim 21, and are likewise believed to distinguish over the cited art for at least the same reason.

Furthermore, claim 34 recites similar features to claim 21, and is thus believed to patentably distinguish over the cited art for at least similar reasons.

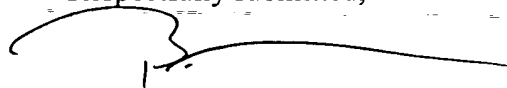
Conclusion

In light of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants submit that all pending claims are now in condition for allowance, and an early notice to that effect is earnestly solicited.

If a phone interview would speed allowance of any pending claims, such is requested at the Examiner's convenience.

The Commissioner is authorized to charge any fees which may be required, or credit any overpayment, to Meyertons, Hood, Kivlin, Kowert & Goetzel, P.C. Deposit Account No. 501505\5681-03900\BNK.

Respectfully submitted,



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